

The Senate Education and Youth Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1239:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum for elementary and secondary students under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for a minimum course of study in criminal law in Georgia established by the State Board of Education; to provide legislative findings; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a time frame for implementation; to provide for an election by a parent or guardian not to participate; to provide for immunity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum for elementary and secondary students under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-148.

(a) The General Assembly finds that our youth are the future of our state and that it is in the best interests of the youth and of society as a whole to discourage, to the greatest extent possible, criminal behavior of youth. The General Assembly further finds that it would be beneficial to educate the youth of this state on the repercussions of engaging in behavior that can be deemed criminal and the devastating impact it can have on the life of the individual, on the individual's family, and on society as a whole.

(b) The State Board of Education shall prescribe a minimum course of study which shall include the criminal code in Georgia as it affects minors with an emphasis on sexual offenses, crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult, crimes included in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 15-11-28, and potential criminal penalties for committing crimes. The State Board of Education shall ensure that any minimum course of study shall be age appropriate for each prescribed grade.

1 (c) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to
2 implement the requirements of this Code section.

3 (d) The minimum course of study to be prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant
4 to subsection (b) of this Code section shall be ready for implementation not later than July
5 1, 2007.

6 (e) Any parent or legal guardian of a child to whom the course of study set forth in this Code
7 section is to be taught shall have the right to elect, in writing, that such child not receive such
8 course of study.

9 (f) No teacher, administrator, or local board of education member shall be held civilly or
10 criminally liable for instruction provided pursuant to this Code section if such instruction
11 is provided in accordance with this Code section and with State Board of Education and local
12 board of education guidelines."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.